on the 8th December 2005 and state:

(a) whether Government of Pakistan have responded to the proposal of our Government to expand the 1974 bilateral protocol to increase the number of shrines and pilgrims in both the countries;

(b) if so, the names of the new shrines in both the countries added to the earlier list and other related details regarding the number of pilgrims from both the countries allowed to visit the shrines; and

(c) if not, the follow up action that is proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) There has been no substantive response from Pakistan to the Indian proposal. The matters related to expansion of the bilateral 'Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines-1974' will be discussed during the forthcoming Secretary (Culture) level talks in the third round of Composite Dialogue under 'Promotion of Friendly Exchanges in Various Fields'.

Promotion policy for IFS officers

1049. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to revise the promotion policy for the officers of the Indian Foreign Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) No decision has been taken by the Government to revise the promotion policy for the officers of the Indian Foreign Service.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Relationship with Nepal

1050. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether our relationship with the Nepal have been steadily